

WOMEN WHO LEAD NATION-WIDE FIGHT FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE



NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Huge Organization is Made Up of 57 State Federations--Works for Suffrage Both by National Amendment and State Referenda--Strictly Non-Partisan.

The network of organization that holds together the great national body of suffragists is indicated by the fact that it is made up of 57 separate state suffrage associations. Its component organizations herald from almost every State in the Union and some States are represented by more than one. Even in those States where suffrage has already won for women, the old organization is maintained, changing only into some form of civic body, but retaining its National.

In 1848 a group called "Non-Partisan" to discuss woman's rights, the national association, under various names and with ever-expanding ambition and intention, holds the record for 69 years of organized work for woman suffrage, distinguished alike by unswerving devotion to the cause and consistent dignity of method. Every year for the eighteen years between 1848 and 1866 woman's rights conventions held the women of the country together. In 1866 the American Equal Rights Association was formed and the woman's righters merged into it. That was the first national effort to secure recognition of the fact that the suffrage question reverts back to the United States constitution. By 1869 it had become apparent that woman suffrage needed its own special organization, and under the initiative of Susan B. Anthony the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed. Next year another national suffrage organization was effected under the name of the American Woman Suffrage Association and the leadership of Lucy Stone. In 1890 the two joined forces as the National American Woman Suffrage Association. There, in a nut-shell, is the seventy years of history of the organization whose officers are leading the fight today for nationwide suffrage. For years Miss Anthony was at the head of the "National." In 1900 she was succeeded by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who resigned two years later and was succeeded by a woman whose golden oratory has made her famous from coast to coast, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Dr. Shaw served for a baker's dozen of years and when she resigned in turn in 1915, once more the choice of the organization fell irresistibly upon Mrs. Catt, Dr. Shaw becoming honorary president.

A World Famous Leader.
Mrs. Catt is world famous for her comprehensive grasp of the woman question and for her genius for organization. Not this country alone, but nearly every other country in the civilized world has felt and responded to her effort to organize its women for suffrage. Besides being president of the national association she is at the head of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

Federal and State Roads to Suffrage.
Ever since 1869, when the first congressional hearing was had at Washington, this national organization has been working for nationwide suffrage through an amendment to the federal constitution. It is working for it today with all the force of its compact organization resources. It keeps a group of women constantly on the spot in Washington. In another column its president sets forth the reasons for favoring that road to suffrage above the road through state referenda. But the "National" shuts no door on suffrage opportunity and, along with its program to secure woman suffrage through federal enactment, it carries on an equally intensive and extensive program for suffrage through state referenda.

HISTORY OF THE "AMENDMENT"

There have been federal amendments before and there will be federal amendments to come, but to the suffragists of America there is one federal amendment that has been standing out with a crown on its brow for some forty years.

It was in the '70s that Susan B. Anthony evoked the federal suffrage amendment. It would take from the States the right to deny the franchise to any citizen of the United States on account of sex and that amendment stands today in House and Senate awaiting action.

Since the year 1882 it has been reported from the Senate committee every year with a favorable majority, except in 1890 and 1896. Twice it has gone to vote in the Senate. The first time was on January 25, 1887, resulting in 16 yeas and 35 nays, with 26 absent, four of whom were committed to suffrage, giving a total suffrage strength of 20. The second time was on March 19, 1914, when there were 35 yeas and 34 nays.

In the House it has been reported from committee seven times, twice by a favorable majority, three times by an adverse majority, and twice without recommendation. The last time was on December 14, 1916, without recommendation. The House, in the position of hereditary enemy of nation-wide suffrage, has never let the measure come to a vote until in 1915, the pressure becoming too strong to be resisted, the poll netted 174 yeas and 204 nays.

AND MONTANA WON!
Three states contested for the right to claim the first woman congressman. They were Montana, Washington and Kansas.

**Mrs. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
AND SOME OF HER CO-WORKERS**

Prefers Action Through Congress To State Referenda

Mrs. Catt Points Out That Franchise Has Come to Women of Most Countries Through Parliamentary Bestowal.

Almost Insuperable Obstacles in the Way of Amending State Constitutions.

Readers of suffrage editions in 1917 will not fail to be struck by the fact that whereas yesterday's argument was devoted to the effort to establish the principle of woman suffrage, today's argument is devoted, in far greater measure, to the method by which suffrage is to be secured. Almost everybody is converted to suffrage today. All the political parties, great and small, have endorsed it. The federations of labor are committed to it. The Grangers want it. National organizations of women plead for it. Religious bodies declare for it. Inevitably with all this lining-up on the suffrage side,

suffrage question, and economy of procedure make a strong fortification for Mrs. Catt's argument. Her summary is as follows:

(1) Suffrage for men and suffrage for women in other lands, with few and minor exceptions, has been granted by parliamentary act and not by referendum. Practically the same method is provided by our Federal Constitution. To deny its benefits to the women of this country is to put upon them a penalty for being Americans.

(2) Congress determines conditions of citizenship and state constitutions fix qualifications of voters. In no instance has the foreign immigrant been forced to plead with a vast electorate for his vote. To deny American women as easy a process of securing their vote as has been granted to men is a discrimination so flagrant and intolerable that no fair-minded man should be a party to it.

(3) The constitutions of many states have provided for amendment by such difficult processes that they either have never been amended or have not been amended when the subject is in the least controversial. Woman suffrage is caught in the coils of constitutional technicalities. Not to be willing to release it and give it a fair chance before the country is un-American.

(4) The election laws of all states make inadequate provision for safeguarding the vote on constitutional amendments. Since election laws do not protect suffrage referenda, suffragists demand the right prescribed by our national constitution to appeal their case from male voters to the higher court of Congress and the legislatures.

(5) Woman suffrage is regarded by every other country as a national question. Politicians may prefer to hide behind the arms of a secret ballot in a referendum which relieves them of responsibility, but the women of the land who are self-respecting enough to want a vote ask a "square deal" by national action.

The women of Ceylon have learned the value of co-operation and have united their teachers and physicians into a strong organization called the Ceylon Association of Professional

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION'S WORK IN CONGRESS

Four Sections With Four Division Chiefs--The "Front Door Lobby," Otherwise Known as the Fighting Phalanx of the National--The "Social Section."

Congressional work which is being carried on by the National American Woman Suffrage Association has grown to such dimensions that it has been found necessary to divide it into four sections with a division chief for each. Most picturesque of these sections is the section on legislation, sometimes called the "Front Door Lobby," in recognition of its scorn of all side door methods and its avowed preference for working in the wide open. Again, it is known as the "fighting phalanx" in recognition of its indomitable spirit and tireless activities. Mrs. Maud Wood Park, of Massachusetts, is chairman.

One feature of the Front Door Lobby is the number of women of national prominence who work in the capacity of congressional aides. Among these is Mrs. William Jennings Bryan; another aide is Mrs. Newton D. Baker, wife of the Secretary of War; still another is Mrs. David F. Houston, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture. All types of ability are to be found in the ranks of the lobbyists. There is the persuasive, persistent dauntlessness of the chairman herself. There is the exalted idealism of such women as Mrs. Glendower Evans, also of Massachusetts. There is the incisive political acumen of women like Mrs. Frank M. Roessing, of Pennsylvania, and the cordial capacity to "handle people," as shown by women like Miss Mary Garrett Hay, of New York. There are soft-voiced, dark-eyed Southerners like Mrs. Gifford Dudley, of Tennessee. And there is the blonde daughter-of-the-Vikings type like Mrs. Ben Hooper, of Wisconsin. From every part of the Union women will work in relays in Washington until the national suffrage bill has been voted upon affirmatively by both houses of Congress.

ARTICLE
SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article.

Status of the Suffrage Bill In Congress

Today the federal suffrage amendment is in a position of crucial moment in both houses of Congress. After months of the maddening delay incident to being smothered in committee, the House Judiciary Committee finally reported the bill, without recommendation. This cleared the way for the Rules Committee to secure a place for it on the House's calendar of business. In the Senate the bill has been favorably reported from the suffrage committee and is already on the Senate's calendar of business awaiting action. Action means going to vote. By the time this is read it will be known, in all probability, whether the 64th Congress, by voting aye on the measure, is to be the body that will go down in history as the instrument of the enfranchisement of women or whether it elects to pass on that high privilege to its successor, the 65th.

Beautiful and extensive suffrage headquarters have been established in Washington at 1626 Rhode Island avenue, a house historic in Washington's annals. Still another program of activity, more distinctively social, is under the leadership of Miss Heloise Meyer, sister of ex-Secretary of the Navy George von Meyer. Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, of New York, is vice-chairman of this section. There is also a publicity section co-operating with Washington's local publicity committee of which Mrs. Gertrude Mossback is chairman.

FINDING FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON



DR. ANNA HOWARD SHAW
Honorary President, National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The question of how to get it becomes paramount. For a great many the answer has always been, "by amending state constitutions." But Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has recently pointed out unescapable reasons in support of the federal route to suffrage. Established precedent, rigidity of State Constitutions, loose election laws, the inherent nationalism of the women